

THE DICKENSIAN

A Magazine for Dickens Lovers
and Monthly Record of the Dickens Fellowship

VOL. II.

MARCH, 1906.

No. 3.

WHEN FOUND—

THE ninety-fourth anniversary of the birth of Dickens was celebrated by most of the branches of the Fellowship on 7 February in this country and abroad, as well as by the Boz Club. The meetings took various forms, such as public dinners, teas and entertainments to poor children, lectures and recitals. In London the meeting was held on 8 February, at which Mr. H. F. Dickens, K.C., delivered his presidential address and made the first announcement of the Fellowship's scheme for providing a Convalescent Home for Poor Children, which is dealt with on another page. At this meeting Mr. S. Luke Fildes, R.A., and Mr. J. Cuming Walters were elected Vice-Presidents of the Fellowship.

* * *

As was announced in our last issue, the lecturer at the March meeting at Memorial Hall on the 7th will be Mr. J. Cuming Walters, who has taken for his subject "Dickens as a Mystery Maker, with special reference to Edwin Drood." Mr. S. Luke Fildes, R.A., who illustrated the story, will occupy the chair. Mr. G. K. Chesterton, Mr. Harold Child, Mr. T. Mostyn, Mr. E. Vincent Waring, Mr. H. Smetham, and Mr. Henry Davey have promised to be present, and, it is hoped, will take part in the discussion to follow.

* * *

The so-called "discovery" of the series of Dickens letters by *The Tribune* early last month revealed nothing new to readers of *The Dickensian* who value our feature "Dickensiana Month by Month." The correspondence appeared in *Answers* for 4 February, 1905, under the heading of "Dickens as a Match-maker: the Novelist as a Friend to Wayward Lovers," and was duly notified in the March number. The letters appeared too in an American paper, and also in one of the Liverpool papers, which made much of them as of local interest.

* * *

Readers will be interested in Mr. Jarvis's letter on another page giving the information required by a previous correspondent regarding the obituary notice of Mr. Pickwick. It has sent us to the book referred to, for we did not know of its existence before, and has given us great pleasure. It is a wholly delightful, sympathetic, humorous, and even pathetic contribution to Pickwickiana, and every admirer of the immortal *Papers* should add it to his collection. Speaking of Pickwick reminds us that Dulwich is cementing its association with the genial spirit by naming one of its thoroughfares "Pickwick Road."

One of our readers in Winnipeg has sent us a copy of a programme of a play which was performed at the Oliver Theatre, Lincoln, in January, and doubtless is being taken through the country. It is described as "A Great Scenic Melodrama," "A Hailstorm of Sensation," and "A Cyclone of Merriment." Its title is *What Women Will Do*, and it is written by Harry Jackson, whoever he may be. No one else is given any credit whatever for the production, although we find that the characters in it are Wilkins Micawber, Daniel Peggotty, *Hiram Peggotty*, Uriah Heep, James Steerforth, David Copperfield, *Sheriff Dudley*, Em'ly, Rosa Dartle, *Mrs. Peggotty*, *Mrs. Micawber*, and Wilkins Micawber, jun. The synopsis of the story given follows, as such characters must, that of Dickens's book, with "specialities" introduced at a country dance and a scene in "Em'ly's apartments in Paris." How *Mrs. Peggotty* is brought to life must be an American secret. The whole, on the face of it, suggests a real "penny plain and tuppenny coloured" melodrama of the direst pattern, and perhaps the "author" of it feels he cannot conscientiously associate Dickens with it. On the other hand he may consider that it is all fruit of his own brain and therefore ask "Why drag in Dickens?" which perhaps explains his ignoring him entirely.

* * *

I am asked to state that only a few tickets remain for the complimentary dinner to Mr. Frank Speaight, who is sailing for America on a recital tour this month. The dinner will take place at Seyd's Hotel, Finsbury Square, E.C., on 3 March, at 7 o'clock, and the price of the tickets is 4s. each. Mr. Arthur Waugh will occupy the chair.

* * *

An exhibition of Dickens prints, water-colour sketches, photographs, books, autograph letters, etc., is being held, by the courtesy of the Committee, in the Reference Department of the Newington Public Library, Walworth Road, S.E., during the present month. The collection, although small, is an interesting one, and well worth a visit.

* * *

Undoubtedly the most successful of all the adaptations of Dickens's novels is *The Only Way* in which Mr. Martin Harvey has been appearing for some years past as Sydney Carton. At its birthday celebration last month at the Kennington Theatre, Mr. Harvey addressed the audience from the stage, and spoke in glowing terms of the Dickens Fellowship. He recommended all present to become, as he had, "members of a society that had such a beautiful aim." We thank Mr. Harvey for his kindly words, and wish his play a long life.

* * *

The letter, which we publish on another page, from Miss Winifred M. Nash, will, we think, interest many of our readers. Miss Nash makes an excellent suggestion, and we shall be pleased to publish inquiries from month to month and our readers' replies to them, and we hope that the feature will prove popular.

THE EDITOR.

THE WOODEN MIDSHIPMAN

By LEICESTER ROMAYNE

AUTHOR OF "THE SURVIVAL OF MRS. CRUPP," "TURVEYDROP AND DEPORTMENT," ETC.

"I am an old-fashioned man in an old-fashioned shop."—UNCLE SOL.

FOR quiet strollers, for those who would rather saunter through life's ways than rush through them in a mad unheeding scamper, the times are sadly changed. Many, too many of the old haunts are gone; narrow winding alleys have been broadened out; I find it more difficult than ever to loiter pleasantly at the bookstall for the crowd that comes pushing by. There is no longer that pleasant exchange of chat and gossip o'er the counter that once was; the vendor would now seem too deep in merchandise to treat of aught else; too busy to cultivate philosophy; too indifferent with a multitude of petty customers to bestow grains of garnered wisdom with his "brown rappee." The Highlander hath been displaced from his honoured post at the threshold; an outlawed McGregor, no longer he braves the tempests above the portals of the tobacconist; rude Saxon hands have removed his once familiar timbered person, while as a just retribution his animate countrymen invade in daily increasing numbers the great capital of the Southron. There was one who said we might prate less of past times if in crossing the street our coat-tails were of a sudden pinned with a javelin! Yet methinks that would give zest to an expedition for snuff, and after such an incident on the way I could of a surety skip with something of alacrity into the safe shelter of Mrs. Glass's shop. There would I meet old cronies, who had also braved dangers of a kindred nature; we would not haste away, sirs, I promise you; if life had to be risked, it should not be done for a mere pinch of snuff, or a pocketful of the Indian weed. We would canvass old times when we were merry dogs. What! but we have heard the chimes at midnight, Master Shallow! Ah, sirs, the rallying about old sweethearts, the names we drowned in our bumpers, the huntings and the feastings, the broils, the intrigues and the quarrels in the days of our "galloping youth"; how they would pass before us again in the shop's dim recess, until withered cheeks flushed and old eyes glowed again with the old fire! Talk to me of javelins, sirs! This were worth a thousand of such bodkins.

I love those shops that evade the careless gaze, that perch adventurously upon slopes; that lurk in quiet corners, turn coyly aside, or coquette with two streets but give entrance only in a shady court; that entice you up narrow alleys and byways, elusive, perplexing, until, all mazed and bewildered, they fling you success as your feet kick against their doorways. There is naught of this in these modern shops; they have no elfin tricks; they are not reared in Wonderland. There is a bold, big, glass effrontery and lack of modesty about them which I like not; like forward, impudent hussies, they force themselves on the attention and display their painted charms. But for me, I will none of their cajoleries. Ah, drop me down through some humble doorway; let there be steps one, two, three, on to a plain wooden floor; give me a little shop like that of Solomon Gills, with all things taut and snug, and stowed within four homely walls; give me a pleasant little man in

Welsh wig or no wig, with a fair "good day," a new morning look, and some old quip or jest for my solace, a cosy bargain, and a chat o'er the counter—give me this, the man and his shop!

Alas, to think of it! The times have changed much since the perplexed old spectacled face of Uncle Sol looked out upon it through his chronometers and sextants; the times are brisker, the ways are noisier, folk are more hurried. Our "odd sticks" are harder to find, and when found can no longer be spared for such matters as bargain sales! Oh, if the purchase of a barometer might earn me the acquaintance of a Cap'n Cuttle, would I not crowd my walls with them, bethink ye, and survey the dry lands of Kensington through marine glasses! How gladly would I gather philosophy e'en with my sealing wax, at the stationer's, and take my chemist by the coat-lapel over the affairs of the nation! But originality has died out in physics since he of Little Britain made prophecies concerning the Grasshopper of the Exchange and the Dragon that flames o'er Bow Church steeple; the science of ghosts has been specialized, and drugs and demons may not now be compounded together as of yore. Come back once more, ye days when London united in one person a 'pothecary and an astrologer; when Cap'n Cuttle roared sea-songs of Barbados in the back parlour of the instrument-maker's, and Mr. Venus cherished a tender affection amid his grinning idols and terrible saurians. Though perils are in the way, I will fear them not. I will go forth to Fleet Street like a knight into the battle. These old houses, sirs, afford many protections by way of gables, shafts, buttresses, and what not; think ye a nimble gentleman might not substitute his neighbour's property for his own person to the blow of the ruffian? Nay, let me go exchange a pinch of "rappee" with my crony at London Wall. Shall the affairs of the nation suffer, then, for a lack of discussion on matters of State? Come what may, I will venture on this journey. For the rest, sirs, why, there is my toasting-fork!

POETICAL TRIBUTE TO CHARLES DICKENS

XV

CHIEF in thy generation born of men
 Whom English praise acclaimed as English-born,
 With eyes that matched the world-wide eyes of morn
 For gleam of tears or laughter, tenderest then
 When thoughts of children warmed their light, or when
 Reverence of age with love and labour worn,
 Or godlike pity fired with godlike scorn,
 Shot through them flame that winged thy swift live pen:
 Where stars and suns that we behold not burn,
 Higher even than here, though highest was here thy place,
 Love sees thy spirit laugh and speak and shine
 With Shakespeare and the soft bright soul of Sterne
 And Fielding's kindest might and Goldsmith's grace;
 Scarce one more loved or worthier love than thine.

ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE.

In *Tristram of Lyonesse and
 other Poems*, 1884.

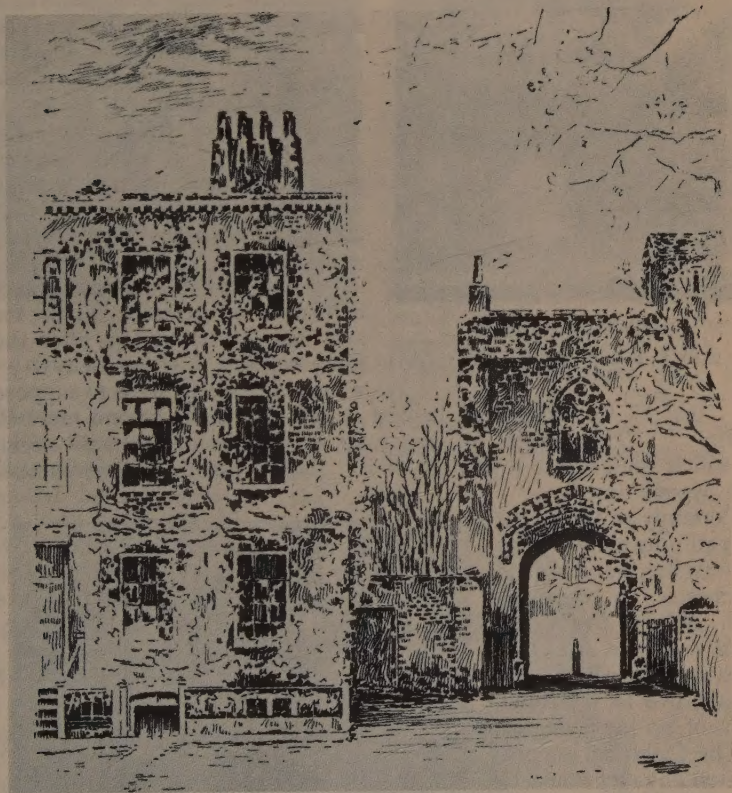
CLOISTERHAM

THE CITY OF EDWIN DROOD

By WALTER BERTRAM

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY F. G. KITTON, G. F. GADD, AND FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

THE revived interest in Dickens's half-told tale of *Edwin Drood*, brought about by the recent various attempts to arrive at a solution of the mystery, has naturally drawn attention to the city of Cloisterham, in which the scene of the story was laid. It is, perhaps, unnecessary



MINOR CANON CORNER

From a drawing by George F. Gadd

to state that Cloisterham is the ancient city of Rochester, so loved by the novelist and so often used as the background for many of his stories. As every one knows, it plays a prominent part in the *Pickwick Papers* and *The Seven Poor Travellers* undisguised in name, whilst it is also in turn Mudfog, Our Town, Dullborough, and The Market Town in other stories and sketches. It has been said—and who shall deny its truth?

that Rochester is a prominent and famous city to-day, not on account of its archæological and antiquarian associations, which are great, but on account of the living and imperishable interest it has through Dickens

and his works, which is greater. It is, however, as *Cloisterham*, the city of *Edwin Drood*, that we intend to speak of it here, and we promise we shall not offer any solution whatever to the mystery.

"For sufficient reasons, which this narrative will itself unfold as it advances, a fictitious name must be bestowed upon the old Cathedral town. Let it stand in these pages as *Cloisterham*." So writes Dickens in the third chapter of *Edwin Drood*, in which he also gives us several really charming pen-pictures of the ancient city, although he is rather hard on it in some cases.

"An ancient city, *Cloisterham*, and no meet dwelling-place for any one with hankerings after the noisy world. A drowsy city . . . whose inhabitants seem to suppose

. . . that all its changes lie behind it, and that there are no more to come. . . . The streets . . . are little more than one narrow street, by which you get into it and out of it. . . . In a word, a city of another and bygone time."

Certainly all this is not very alluring to the would-be traveller, but a visit to Rochester in company with *Edwin Drood* will soon convince him that what seem drawbacks will soon prove to be attractions of no mean degree.

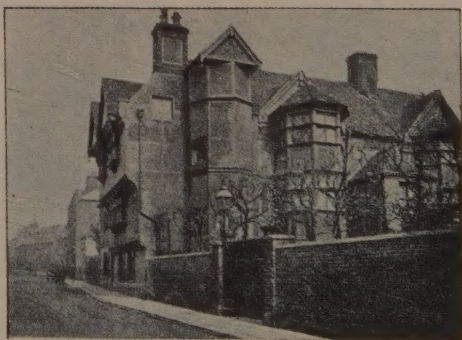
The Cathedral is a possession any city would be proud of, and we are introduced to it in the second chapter of the book, and thenceforth throughout the story it plays an important part.

Jasper, the central figure of the story, is the organist, and it was in the Cathedral precincts that the great tragedy, which has baffled all the solvers of mysteries since the story was published, was enacted. Here, too, is the crypt where



JASPER'S GATEHOUSE

From a photo, by permission of Mr. J. H. Goldwin, Rochester



EASTGATE HOUSE

THE ORIGINAL OF MISS TWINKLETON'S ACADEMY

From a photo, by permission of Mr. J. H. Goldwin, Rochester

"the heavy pillars which support the roof engender masses of black shade," around which came Durdles tapping for "old 'uns."

Jasper, whom Mr. Grewgious had come to see, lived at "an old stone gatehouse crossing the close, with an arched thoroughfare passing beneath it." This is at once to be seen as the visitor turns off from the High Street to reach the western entrance of the Cathedral. And he will peep in, doubtless, after the manner of Mr. Grewgious, who exclaimed, "Dear me! it's like looking down the throat of Old Time."

It is a delightful piece of picturesque old Rochester, and its local name of College Yard Gate has almost universally given place to that of "Jasper's Gatehouse," so inseparable have Cloisterham and Rochester become. In the room over the gate many of the most important scenes of the book took place.

Round in "a quiet place in the shadow of the Cathedral"

is Minor Canon Row, or Corner, as Dickens described it, where lived the Rev. Septimus Crisparkle and his mother, the "divine shepherdess," and in whose rooms that scene depicted by the artist of the book, with Jasper at the piano, took place. The houses "had odd little porches over the doors, like sounding boards over old pulpits" in those days, and they are still there to remind one of "Mr. Sept." and his Ma, and the spot is still more quiet than absolute silence.

"In the midst of Cloisterham stands the Nuns' House. . . . The house-front is so old and worn, and the brass plate is so shining and staring, that the general result has reminded imaginative strangers of a battered old beau with a large modern eye-glass stuck in his blind eye." The brass plate referred to bore the legend, "Seminary for young ladies — Miss Twinkleton."



MR. SAPSEA'S HOUSE

From a photo, by permission of Mr. J. H. Goldwin,
Rochester



MR. SAPSEA'S FATHER

From a drawing by Mr. F. J. Kitton

Here was Rosa Bud, a boarder, and in the garden by the sundial the famous interview with Jasper occurred. The house is a grand specimen of Elizabethan architecture, and was built in 1591. Eastgate House, as it is called, was acquired in 1897 as a Diamond Jubilee Memorial of the reign of Queen Victoria, and is now the city museum, with a room set apart for, and well filled with, Dickens relics, chiefly through the kindness of Mr. Percy Fitzgerald.

In the High Street, Mr. Sapsea, the "jackass," had his business premises. They were "over against the Nuns' House," we are told, and undoubtedly the ancient three-gabled house on the opposite side of the road to Eastgate House was the home of the auctioneer, over which was at one time a carved wooden figure of his father in his rostrum as an auctioneer, with hammer poised in hand, and a counte-



THE VINES

From a drawing by F. G. Kitton

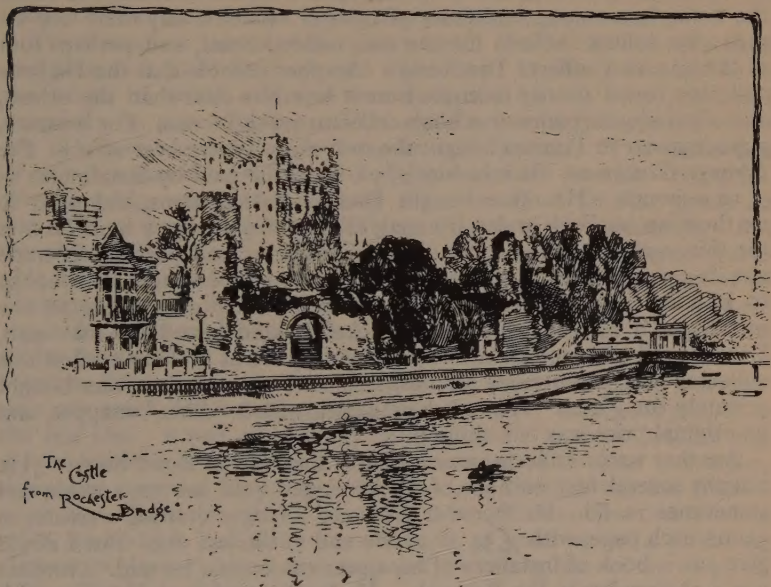
nance expressive of "Going—Going—Gone!" so amusingly referred to by Dickens.

Off the High Street, in Maidstone Road, once stood the "Travellers' Twopenny," where the Deputy lodged. It was at one time "The White Duck" public house, and later, "Kitt's Lodging House." It is now a thing of the past, and on its site to-day stands a warehouse. In Mr. Harris's little pamphlet on *Dickensian Rochester* is a pen-and-ink sketch of it as an inn. It is one of the few, if not the only one, of Drood landmarks that have disappeared.

Opposite the Restoration House (the Satis House of *Great Expectations*) are the prettily laid out gardens known as "The Vines." Dickens was seen contemplating the scene on the day before his death, and it was into these grounds that he took Datchery and the Princess Puffer for that memorable interview, almost the last sentences he wrote. It

was no doubt here, too, on one of the seats, that Edwin and Rosa sat, as shown in the picture entitled "Under the Trees" in the book.

The last time that Rosa and Edwin met was on the Esplanade under the castle walls by the river's side. Here they walked side by side, the best of friends, making their separate plans for the future. What that future was to be will long continue to tax the minds of those with "detective" inclinations.



THE CASTLE, SHOWING THE ESPLANADE

From a drawing by F. G. Kitton

Before we close this short article on Cloisterham, let us give Dickens's happiest description of the place, penned among the last lines he was to write.

"A brilliant morning shines in the old city. Its antiquities and ruins are surpassingly beautiful with a lusty ivy gleaming in the sun and the rich trees waving in the balmy air. Changes of glorious light from moving boughs, songs of birds, scents from gardens, woods, and fields . . . penetrate into the Cathedral, subdue its earthly odour, and preach the Resurrection and the Life."

BRONZE FIGURES OF CHARACTERS FROM DICKENS

THE success of the four bronze Dickens characters, which Messrs. Frankan & Co. manufactured last year, has prompted them to add four more to the series, making eight in all: Mr. Pickwick, Sam Weller, Jingle, Mrs. Gamp, Tony Weller, Squeers, the Fat Boy, and Captain Cuttle. The price of each is 1s., and they can be had from the Secretary at Headquarters.

THE DICKENS COLLECTOR.

MR. WALTER T. SPENCER, of New Oxford Street, who may be described as the Dickens specialist among booksellers, recently gave a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* some interesting points about Dickens collecting and collectors.

Within ten years, said Mr. Spencer, the Dickens collector has taken the first place among collectors of novels. I would say there are six men who collect Dickens for one who collects Scott, and perhaps four to the one who collects Thackeray. Another point is that the Dickens collector seems mostly to come from a humbler class than the others, and often is quite poor—in a book-collector sense I mean. For instance, a greengrocer in Pimlico bought the only copy I have ever seen of *The Strange Gentleman*. It cost him £50, which he paid by instalments of £10 a month. He often bought Dickens first editions, and used to tie them on his back under his coat, for his wife was very hard on him for this weakness. He had a queer little shop, and part of his trade was in penny bottles of ginger-beer. When my messenger took books to him he used to pretend that he was selling ginger-beer to the messenger if his wife appeared. Dickens would have liked that man, I think. *The Strange Gentleman* brought £184 at Sotheby's when this collector was unfortunate in business, and afterwards it was bought privately for £250. It was a single part, with a "Phiz" wrapper, and its original price was one shilling.

Another warm collector was a tailor's foreman in Bond Street. He bought several first editions of Dickens, and paid me 5s. a week, and sometimes 7s. 6d. Mr. Spencer produced a ledger showing a rivulet of 5s. on each page, with £54 5s. at the end of the last one. But I could give you a book of instances of my queer customers, he said. Another was a chairmaker in the Borough. He had a rough sort of home, with nothing to attract your attention except a little bookcase which had only first editions in their original wrappers.

Now take an example of the bad Dickens collector, said Mr. Spencer. The foundation of Dickens high prices was laid in America. Chicago, San Francisco, and the Western towns seem to want most. The wickedest Dickens collector in the world lives at Minneapolis. Last year I sold him the finest set of *Pickwick* in the original parts I have ever seen—pure, spotless, as though the wrappers had been preserved in lavender. A lovely set. He is having them bound. There can be few sets like that in the world—sets like that won't turn up again, and no one can replace them.

But all Americans are not like that. Far from it. They are very open-minded, too, in their choice. Mr. John Wanamaker, who was here not long ago, bought a whole series of Dickens parodies—*Oliver Twiss*, *Nicholas Nicklebury*, *Mr. Humphries' Clock*, and so on. These were issued to catch Dickens readers when the works whose titles were parodied were being sold. Terrible trash they are, but they bring about £5 each. It is an ironic instance of the power of Dickens that he should make even the mud that was thrown at him of great value. You remember what he says about these parodies in *Nicholas Nickleby*?

A DICKENS CONVALESCENT HOME

THE FELLOWSHIP'S NEW SCHEME

THE ninety-fourth anniversary of the birth of Dickens was celebrated at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, on 8 February, when Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., the President, occupied the chair, and delivered his presidential address. He took for his subject "Has the Dickens Fellowship justified its existence?"

There was one lesson of sympathy which Charles Dickens practised and preached while he lived, and which is to be found everywhere in the books he wrote, and that was sympathy for the very poor, and especially for poor children. That was the text of the address which Mr. Dickens delivered. It was, he said, because of a realization of this fact that the Dickens Fellowship had been formed. No guild, no fellowship, was needed to keep the memory of Dickens green; it was idle to suppose that any club could add to his reputation. But the object of such an association was to pursue those objects of charitable effort which had commanded so completely the sympathies of Dickens while he lived. Mr. Dickens dealt at length on the Fellowship's development, and reviewed its many undertakings. It was now in its fourth year, and its membership had increased from 3000 to between 8000 and 9000. Its revenue was small because its subscription was small, but it had given dinners to nearly 4000 poor people in the last year; it had given many entertainments to them besides, and it now rejoiced in a magazine which promulgated its aims and aspirations, and recorded its doings. In association with it was the Needlework and Charitable Guild, of which Miss Miniken was the leading spirit, and which had done an infinitude of good work in providing clothes for poor children, and especially in taking care of the crippled "Tiny Tims" in their ranks.

This subject led the speaker by an easy step to a project which had for some time been under the consideration of the Council. It had seemed to them that it would be a very good thing if some permanent memorial could be raised which should embody and typify the objects for which the Dickens Fellowship had first been formed, and should give solidarity to their aims. It was therefore proposed to raise a Convalescent Home for poor children, where they would not be treated as charity children. Its beginnings would be very modest, but it was hoped in time to increase its scope. An appeal, signed by Lord James of Hereford, by Canon Benham, and by himself (Mr. H. F. Dickens), would be made to the public for donations with which to start this little home, and for subscriptions with which to keep it up. Alderman Sir William P. Treloar had kindly undertaken the duties of Treasurer. It was to be intentionally a very modest institution, but none could more worthily commemorate the novelist's memory.

Among those present were Miss Georgina Hogarth, Mrs. H. F. Dickens and her daughters, the Rev. Hook Longsdon, Mr. Snowden Ward. Telegrams and letters, sending good wishes, came from Vice-Presidents unable to be present, and from the various branches scattered throughout the world. Mr. Hook Longsdon and Mr. Snowden Ward

also addressed the meeting, the latter gentleman on behalf of the National Dickens Library. His speech is quoted elsewhere.

Later in the evening Mr. Dickens recited to the packed and enthusiastic audience the Trial Scene from *Pickwick*. And Mr. William Miles gave "Mr. Horatio Sparkins" and "Mr. Winkle at Bath."

The following is the text of the letter sent to the Press:—

February 6th, 1906.

SIR,—For the last three years "The Dickens Fellowship" has raised funds during the winter which enabled the Council to give dinners to children in the poorer districts of London. In this way about 7000 children have been fed, whilst similar work has been done by many of the Fellowship's numerous branches.

The Committee who have had charge of this fund have watched the results effected carefully, and have come to the conclusion that it is desirable in the best interests of the children that the relief afforded should be of a character to confer permanent benefit upon the recipients.

It is common knowledge that children in the poorer districts who have sufficiently recovered from serious illnesses to be pronounced "cured," are still, though technically sufficiently recovered to be discharged from hospital, not in a fit state of health to return to their wretched lives in the slums. There can be no doubt that if more of such children could be sent to a Convalescent Home at the seaside or in the country for a short time, where they could enjoy good nourishing food and fresh air, not only would many young lives be saved, but the children would be enabled to return to their homes better fitted to battle with the hardships of their daily existence.

Having had this suggestion before them, the Council of the Dickens Fellowship have considered it advisable to start such a home, provided the necessary funds can be obtained. It is proposed to commence in a small way with a home which will accommodate at least ten children regularly, summer and winter, and we have readily responded to the Council's appeal to become trustees of the fund which it is proposed to raise. We therefore appeal to the members of the Dickens Fellowship, and to the public generally, for help in this matter. The amount required for the first year is, roughly, £1000, and after that about £500 a year.

The home will be managed most economically, but the greatest care will be taken that good and sufficient food be supplied, and it is hoped that the Needlework and Charitable Guild of the Dickens Fellowship will be able to present the children with some warm clothing on leaving the Home.

The proposed accommodation is for at least five boys and five girls, and no restrictions whatever will be placed on the social condition or religion of the children. It is hoped, of course, that with increased contributions the suggested accommodation will be greatly increased.

Cheques and P.O.O. for subscriptions or donations should be crossed Parr's Bank, Charing Cross Branch, and made payable to the Dickens Fellowship Convalescent Home Fund, and may be sent direct to the Bank or to the Hon. Secretary, Whitcomb House, Whitcomb Street, W.C. Every remittance will receive an official acknowledgment by post, and will also be acknowledged month by month in the *Dickensian*.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

J. W. T. LEY, *Hon. Secretary.*

W. P. TRELOAR, *Hon. Treasurer.*

JAMES OF HEREFORD,

WILLIAM BENHAM,

HENRY F. DICKENS.

Trustees.

The following amounts have been received :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Lord James of Hereford	52	10	0	Rev. H. H. Woodward	1	0	0
H. F. Dickens, K.C.	5	5	0	A. C. Allen	1	1	0
Canon Benham	5	0	0	L. A. T.	0	10	0
Mrs. Archdale	5	0	0	W. Dexter	0	10	6
Arthur Waugh	1	1	0	W. Dexter*	0	10	6
Wm. Ash	0	10	0	A. E. Hurdle*	0	5	0
Miss Georgina Hogarth	0	5	0	G. E. White	0	2	6
H. Snowden Ward*	1	1	0	A. J. Tilley	0	2	6
E. P. Haslam*	1	1	0	Mrs. E. M. Hills	0	5	0
A. C. Haslam	0	10	0	A. H. Hirschberg	0	5	0
Miss I. Smith	0	10	0	H. Lustig	0	5	0
James Hudson	5	5	0	W. Miller*	0	5	0
A. E. B. Cross	0	2	6	T. W. Tyrrell*	0	5	0
B. W. Matz*	0	10	6	F. J. Evans*	0	5	0
T. Morris	2	2	0	T. Webb*	0	10	6
Mr. and Mrs. F. Morgan	5	5	0	Sidney Marriott*	0	5	0
A. N. C.	0	5	0	Miss E. M. Miniken*	0	5	0
Miss L. Scull	1	0	0	E. W. Brown*	0	10	6
C. F. Bremner	0	5	0				

* Annual Subscription.

THE NATIONAL DICKENS LIBRARY

AT the Dickens Birthday Celebrations in London on 8 February, Mr. H. Snowden Ward addressed the meeting and deplored the fact that the Fellowship had not been able, up to the present time, to purchase the unique Dickens collection left by the late Mr. F. G. Kitton. The collection, as was known, included over three hundred books and publications referring to Charles Dickens, two hundred portraits, and a number of relics and mementoes.

Mrs. Kitton, the widow of the famous Dickensian bibliophile, had had offers from American and English dealers for different items in the collection. She, however, refused these offers, preferring that the Fellowship should have the collection at their own valuation. The Guildhall authorities had volunteered, should the Fellowship ultimately purchase the collection, to reserve a room in the building in which it could be treasured, the apartment, of course, being thrown open to the public.

It was earnestly to be hoped, Mr. Snowden Ward remarked, that all admirers of Dickens would do their utmost, so that Mr. F. G. Kitton's collection should, in course of time, find a place among the treasures of the Guildhall Gallery.

Subscriptions received since our last issue are as follows:—

F. A. Bosanquet, £1 1s.; E. P. Haslam, £1 1s.; Sir Benjamin Baker, £1; A. E. B. Cross, 2s. 6d.; A. J. Tilley, 2s. 6d.; Geo. Schneider, 2s.; Anon., 1s. 6d.; Miss Hope, 1s. 6d.; Miss A. T. Wade, 1s.; F. C. Cadman, 1s.; making a total to 23 February of £27 16s. 6d. About £30 has also been promised.

MR. HARRY FURNISS ON DICKENS

ON 12 February Mr. Harry Furniss delivered before a crowded audience at the London Institution an address on "Charles Dickens and To-day." He said that one had only to remember the giants in literature at the time of Dickens to realize Dickens's greatness, when he rose to be chief of them all. The pygmies of the pen of the present day sneered at those who were admirers of "Boz," and accused them of mid-Victorian tastes. He took no notice of such sneers. He was proud of the fact that he was a lover of Dickens, and he was not alone in his love.

THE FASCINATION OF LONDON*

THERE is nothing more calculated to make the Londoner realize the greatness and wonderful history of his city than such a book as Mr. P. Norman's *London: Vanished and Vanishing*. It breathes the romance of the olden time in every page, and compels one to sigh for the things that have gone. Mr. Norman has been occupied for years past in making notes on the spot, with brush and pencil, of picturesque buildings threatened with destruction; and the result is not only a delightful piece of history, but a gallery of altogether charming pictures in colour of those places now doomed to destruction and many which have already gone beyond recall.

Naturally, no book on London dealing with bygone days can avoid touching upon the subject as it is affected by the glamour cast over it by its own novelist, Charles Dickens.

And in this respect Mr. Norman's volume will be greatly appreciated, for very little has escaped him of a Dickensian interest, much of which is represented by delightful examples of his work with the brush. These include "The White Hart," Southwark (four pictures); "Black Bull," Holborn; "Staple Inn"; "Barnard's Inn"; the so-called "Old Curiosity Shop"; and others; whilst the references in the text are numerous and informative. Sometimes he overlooks a point to be made in this direction, such as in the case of the Roman Catholic chapel in Sardinia Street, notable, for a Dickensian reason, as having been chosen for a furious onslaught by the Gordon rioters in *Barnaby Rudge*.

But every Londoner, for whatever reason he is proud of his city, will welcome and prize Mr. Norman's fascinating volume. B. W. M.

* *London: Vanished and Vanishing*. Painted and described by Philip Norman. London: Adam and Charles Black. 2os. net.

DICKENS CONDENSED†

WE have received from America a copy of *Tales from Dickens*, by Hallie Erminie Rives. It is a volume of close upon five hundred pages, and is an attempt to do with Dickens's works what the Lambs did with Shakespeare's. It was no easy task the author set herself, but she has succeeded to an uncommon degree. The chief object apparently has been to interest young people in the stories and characters of each book, with a view to attracting them to the real books themselves. If this is accomplished, then the volume will have served an excellent purpose. Everything is done to simplify, and at the commencement of each story the date of the story is given, the scene and the period of its enactment, and a list of the characters with proper designation to each is supplied, whilst at the end of the volume is an alphabetical list of the characters in the series, with the name of the book in which they appear. The volume, too, has some fairly good illustrations by Reginald B. Birch.

B. W. M.

† *Tales from Dickens*. By Hallie Erminie Rives. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co.

A NEW "CASE" FOR JACK HOPKINS

IF the spirit of Mr. Bob Sawyer—it would be an "unquiet" spirit, doubtless—ever revisits St. Bartholomew's Hospital, it will hear with professional interest of a "case" which might have come straight out of that informing thirty-first chapter of the *Pickwick Papers*.

Recently a man walked into the out-patients' department of the hospital and asked to be attended to immediately. He averred that he had swallowed his false teeth. The surgeons were soon in attendance, and cross-questioned him as to where he felt the most pain. The sufferer begged to be cut open at once, as the teeth were "tearing his inside out."

It had just been decided that the X-Rays would have to be employed to locate the teeth, when a porter presented himself at the surgery door and said that a little girl had come to see if her father was there, and to say that his teeth had been found under the bed. The patient's pangs ended abruptly. He explained that he thought he must have swallowed them, as he could not find them.

It must have been a bitter disappointment to the surgeons, for it looked like what Mr. Jack Hopkins called "a very fair case—very fair case indeed." The whole incident reminds us of the conversation of that experienced man:—

"That's the most extraordinary case I ever heard of," said Mr. Pickwick.

"Oh, that's nothing," said Jack Hopkins; "is it, Bob?"

"Certainly not," replied Mr. Bob Sawyer.

"Very singular things occur in our profession, I can assure you, sir," said Hopkins.

"So I should be disposed to imagine," replied Mr. Pickwick."

The Daily News.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE BOZ CLUB

UNDER the chairmanship of Lord Robertson, the members of the Boz Club held their annual dinner at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, on 7 February.

Lord Robertson said they were met there to celebrate the birthday of Charles Dickens, not as an exclusive or esoteric clique, but people rejoicing in the fame of the novelist whose work had in a remarkable degree that touch of nature which makes the whole world kin.

Mr. Pett Ridge, in a heartily amusing speech, declared that fiction and law had now "made it up," and that Charles Dickens rests not so much in Westminster Abbey as in our hearts.

Mr. Harry Furniss gave an address on "Dickens and his Illustrators," illustrated by limelight pictures.

Mr. Marcus Stone, R.A., gave some memories and impressions of Dickens, and told of the days when he, as only a boy, was entrusted with the opportunity of illustrating the works of Boz. An interesting contrast was to be seen between the methods of Charles Dickens and Anthony Trollope. With the latter his characters were merely characters; with Dickens they were living people.

Mr. H. F. Dickens illustrated the tender personal relations which existed between his father and the illustrators from his father's letters.

AN EXAMINATION IN DICKENS'S WORKS

DURING the present year we are setting as a competition a series of examination papers on certain of the works of Dickens. There will be twenty questions for each issue of *The Dickensian*, devoted to one book each month. We offer six prizes for the best answers to the complete set of twelve papers as follows :—

- 1st Prize: A complete set of the Fireside Edition of the works of Dickens, 22 volumes.
- 2nd Prize: *The Real Dickens Land*, by H. Snowden Ward.
- 3rd Prize: *The Dickens Country*, by F. G. Kitton.
- 4th, 5th, 6th Prizes: *Rambles in Dickens Land*, by Robert Allbut.

All answers, with the chapter of the book given, should be sent in on foolscap paper (on one side only) bearing the heading of the particular examination paper. Do not repeat the questions, but simply number the answers to tally with the questions.

The answers should be addressed to the Editor of *The Dickensian*, at Whitcomb House, Whitcomb Street, W.C., marked "EXAMINATION," and must be forwarded *to reach that address by the 18th of each month*.

The correct answers will appear in the following issue, and the names of the leading competitors, with the number of marks their papers have earned. The prizes will be allotted at the end of the year.

The adjudicators are Mr. Robert Allbut, Mr. J. W. T. Ley, and the Editor, the decision of whom will be final.

III—NICHOLAS NICKLEBY

1. What present, in furtherance of Christian missions, was reported by a correspondent?
2. What antitheses are given in descriptive reference to the conduct of a public man?
3. Quote references to the Siamese Twins, Miss Biffin, Cock Lane Ghost, Jupiter, Hamlet, and Daniel Lambert.
4. Give list of inns and hotels mentioned throughout this work; quote names (where stated) and localities.
5. On what occasion was a youthful celebrity dressed in blue?
6. What double aversion was possessed by the father of Nicholas?
7. In what respect may the recording angel be spared some research?
8. Give a scholastic definition of philosophy.
9. What person, other than Nicholas, was offered a similar income?
10. Furnish allusions to Eel Pie Island and various metropolitan localities.
11. Give quotation from Psalm of Moses and allusion to the waters of Lethe.
12. How many "speculations" are mentioned in the Nickleby history?
13. State infection taken by a country traveller and contagion taken by Nicholas in London; also reference to the disease of erysipelas.
14. Specify allusions (as many as possible) to provincial towns in England, exclusive of Southampton, Winchester, Canterbury, Brighton, and Ryde.
15. What creditor of Nicholas Nickleby, senior, did his wife consider badly used?
16. Quote reference to a popular proverb, and synonym for the acting personage therein.
17. Furnish character sketch (fifty words) of Tim Linkinwater.
18. Name two accomplished companions of Kate in her schoolgirl days.
19. On what occasion was a professional gentleman emphatically regardless of outlay?
20. What agricultural process was recommended to an employé by a City merchant?

RESULT OF COMPETITION II

PICKWICK PAPERS

IN fairness to all competitors we have cancelled Question No. 2, as the reference does not occur in current editions. That leaves the maximum number for the paper 228. Mr. C. G. Price has earned the largest number (202), and is the only competitor to answer Question No. 4 correctly.

Many have lost marks through not giving the chapter references, and others deserved to for writing on both sides of the paper—an inexcusable thing to do nowadays.

Last month Mr. H. E. Price's initials were given as "A. G.", and Miss E. Watson's name erroneously as Miss E. "Motson."

II—PICKWICK PAPERS—ANSWERS

1. At the break-up of Christmas party, at Dingley Dell. Replying to query, "Where do you hang out?" Mr. Pickwick said "he was at present suspended at the 'George and Vulture'" (Chap. 30).
2. "*The elder Mr. Samuel*" (Chap. 27), to be found in the earlier editions.
3. *Four*. Mr. Pickwick (Chap. 1), Cabby (Chap. 2), Sam Weller (Chap. 10, etc.), and Mr. Slumkey (Chap. 13).
4. *Two years and a half*; dating from May 13th, 1827 (Chap. 2), to the time of Mr. Pickwick's announcement at Wardle's last dinner-party at the "Adelphi" (Chap. 57), November or December, 1829.
5. "*The New River Company*" (Chap. 4); "*Chelsea Waterworks*" (Chap. 23).
6. Three. Sam's reference to *Number Six*, at "White Hart" (Chap. 10); as per Report of "The Brick Lane Branch," relative to *Thomas Burton* (Chap. 32), and in Illustration, "Election at Eatanswill" (Chap. 13).
7. "*Secrets of the prison house*." Hamlet, Act 1, Scene v. Quoted in regard to Mr. Jackson's intimation of reserve, when serving subpoenas on the Pickwickians (Chap. 31).
8. "*Short girl—black eyes—niece Emily*." See Jingle's reference (Chap. 8).
9. "*Isabella*." Mentioned in full eight times (Chaps. 4, 6, 7, and 8).
10. *Mr. Blotton*: trade—*Draper*; residence—*Aldgate* (Chap. 1); *Journey to Cobham* (Chap. 11).
11. *Lowten*, when at Mr. Perker's residence, accepting glass of wine (Chap. 47).
12. "Nothing redolent of *Pan*, but *pantiles*" (Chap. 7).
14. *Mary Anne* (Chap. 46).
15. *Bonaparte* (Chap. 28), *Robinson Crusoe* (Chaps. 7, 30, and 44).
16. By an uncle of the one-eyed traveller; met on two occasions, by Pickwickian friends. His *predominating virtues*, as reported by his nephew, were "his mixed punch and his after-supper song" (Chaps. 14, 48, 49).
17. Lowten referred to Mr. Watty as "*a pestering bankrupt*" (Chap. 31).
18. A walk from Dorking to London (Chap. 27).
19. "*Beneath the softening influence of india-rubber*" (Chap. 15); "*one young gentleman in an india-rubber cloak*" (Chap. 35); "*as abruptly as an india-rubber ball*" (Chap. 36); *india-rubber fire-buckets* (Chap. 44).
20. In Chapter 21. The Marshalsea prison.

LIST OF TWELVE LEADING COMPETITORS

WITH THEIR TOTAL MARKS TO DATE

C. G. Price, 430. Miss M. M. Fowler, 421. H. E. Price, 415. Miss W. M. Nash, 412. Miss H. C. Hart, 411. Miss F. Innocent, 406. Miss M. Neidermann, 398. F. W. Grunwell, 396. G. F. Gadd, 393. Miss E. M. Hill, 390. Miss E. C. C. Eshuys, 381. Miss M. J. Wilde, 381.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

NEEDLEWORK AND CHARITABLE GUILD

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to give an "Old Folks' Tea" similar to that given at Stamford Hill last year; this will probably be at about Easter, but the date will be announced later. The Hon. Secretary of the Guild will be pleased to hear from any members willing to assist in carving, and waiting on the guests. The recent cold weather has caused additional trouble to those already suffering from lack of employment. Clothing, food, and coals have been thankfully received by many of the sufferers, whose gratitude for the help rendered by the Guild is often very touching. The Hon. Secretary, on behalf of the Committee, begs to thank all members who have forwarded supplies of clothing, books, etc. It is worthy of note that one gentleman member has, by making a "threepenny collection," raised the sum of £1 toward the Guild funds. Perhaps this excellent example might be followed by others who are not able to assist in a different way.

THE FELLOWSHIP IN CHELSEA

UNDER the auspices of the Council, a Dickens Evening was provided at the Belgrave Literary Society, Cadogan Street, Chelsea, on 1 February. The chair was occupied by Mr. B. W. Matz, who also read a paper on Dickens's Life and Work, in the which he briefly indicated the lessons his works teach, and the benefits already derived from them. The rest of the evening was taken up with recitals from *Bleak House*, by Miss Kathleen Marriott; *A Christmas Carol*, by Miss Amy Gwinnett; "Richard Doubledick," by Mr. Howard Rose; *Pickwick Papers*, by Mr. P. Merriman. The programme concluded with two scenes from *The Cricket on the Hearth*, in which Messrs. Brodie, Merriman, and Prescott, and Misses Amy Gwinnett and Norah Bailey took parts. Mr. Ley spoke of the Fellowship and its work.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH

THE meeting of 2 February was of an exceptionally lively nature, and the members were favoured by an excellent programme. The book under discussion was *Our Mutual Friend*, and was introduced by Miss H. Hancox, who commented upon the female characters. Mr. S. B. Askew supported her, and also dealt largely with the system of "Poor Law" administration of fifty years ago, and stated that there was still room for an improvement, and suggested "relief" without pauperism. The meeting was concluded by a recitation from *The Uncommercial Traveller*, entitled "Tramps," ably given by Mr. Matchett.

The *Mystery of Edwin Drood* was the subject of a lecture given by Mr. R. K. Dent on 7 February at the Great Western Hotel. The chair was taken by Mr. G. W. Davis, and a crowded meeting, one of the largest held by the branch, was kept deeply interested throughout. Mr. Dent briefly dwelt upon the novelist's selection of Mr. S. L. Fildes as an illustrator, and on the cover of the first part. He also gave a brief sketch of the character of the half-finished story. Dealing with the theories about the intentions of the novelist, he considered the only feasible one was that put forward by the late Mr. R. A. Proctor. By the aid of a lantern and an excellent series of slides Mr. Dent was able to produce a number of Fildes' illustrations, and also many other pictures relating to scenes in and around Rochester.

BLACKHEATH, LEE, AND LEWISHAM BRANCH

At the January meeting a lantern lecture, entitled "The Old Dover Road," was given by Mr. Jas. E. Palmer. Rev. C. A. Berry occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members and friends. In a strikingly

interesting manner the lecturer described Dickens's association with Blackheath, Shooter's Hill, and Greenwich. Although it was not recorded in any of his works, it was well known that Dickens had a brother living in Avenue Road, Lewisham. Deptford and the old New Cross Gate were the favourite haunts of Pip, Dickens's favourite character. The beauties of this district in the early days, remarked the lecturer, were not only described by Dickens, in the second chapter of the famous book *A Tale of Two Cities*, but were also described by Byron.

In connexion with the branch a dinner was given to the aged men and women at Shrubbery Road Schools, on 26 January. There were a hundred guests who were regaled with a bountiful meal, whilst fifty more had provisions sent to their homes. Mrs. Palmer, assisted by the lady members of the Society, worked hard to ensure the success of the event. A concert under the direction of Mr. Palmer followed. As the guests left, fifty packets of tobacco were presented to the men by Mr. J. W. Lickis and the Ladies' Needlework Society. The Committee provided each of the old ladies with a half-pound of tea.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

ON 27 January a competition in Dickens recitations and readings took place at Steine House for book prizes offered by the President (Mr. Henry Davey). Mr. James Robertson was the judge. The recitations which were chosen by the competitors were as follows: "The Death of Sydney Carton," Miss Alice Halsey; "The Wedding Dinner at Greenwich," Miss A. G. Goring; "Sydney Carton's Last Supplication," Miss M. Russell-Davies; "Pip," Mr. W. Fowler; "The Return of Miggs," Mr. Francis James Gauntlett; "The Death of Betty Higden," Mr. W. Adams. The readings were from *Bleak House*, and were selected by the President, the lady competitors each reading that portion introducing "Little Charley," and the gentlemen "The Rejection of Mr. Guppy."

Dickens's birthday was celebrated on 10 February. Mr. Henry Davey presided, and announced that the prizes he had offered for competition were won by Miss M. Russell-Davies and Mr. F. J. Gauntlett, who were respectively made the recipients of Langton's *Childhood and Youth of Dickens* and Grego's *Pictorial Pickwickiana*. In accordance with the rule observed at every Dickens birthday celebration, some selections from the best-known and most popular novels were given. Miss M. Russell-Davies recited a piece from *Nicholas Nickleby* describing the arrival by the chimney of Mrs. Nickleby's mad lover; Mr. W. F. Fowler followed with "Bob Sawyer's Party," from *Pickwick*; Miss A. G. Goring gave the "Eatanswill Election," from the same work; and Mr. F. J. Gauntlett the scene between the drunken Jonas Chuzzlewit and his wife. An address was given by the General Secretary of the Fellowship, Mr. J. W. T. Ley, in the course of which he appealed for help towards purchasing the late Mr. Kitton's collection.

BRISTOL AND CLIFTON DICKENS SOCIETY (AFFILIATED)

THE monthly meeting was held in the C.M.S. Hall, on 16 January, the Rev. A. N. Blatchford presiding. The subject discussed was the "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." After the Chairman had made a few remarks, Mr. G. Rennie Powell read a paper on the subject. He endeavoured to solve the mystery of Edwin Drood from the author's text. Dickens employed little padding, and every little incident had something to do with the story; yet all passages were not necessarily clues, although none was a false trail. He considered that Edwin Drood was murdered, and that his murderer was John Jasper. Mr. Powell said he felt certain that Bazzard was Datchery. After going into the opium-den portion of the mystery, he further emphasized the points of his argument, and suggested episodes which might have followed if the work had been completed.

BRIXTON BRANCH

ON 30 January an interesting Dickensian entertainment took place at the Lecture Hall of Brixton Independent Church. A dramatic version of *A Christmas Carol* was presented by the scholars of the Sunday School in very creditable fashion, under the direction of Mr. Clifton Robbins, who played the leading part of Ebenezer Scrooge excellently. He was supported by nearly a score of youthful actors, who all performed their parts well, with vivacity and spirit. The acting of Miss Dora Collins was far above the average. The programme of the Christmas party of Scrooge's Nephew concluded with "Sir Roger de Coverley" by "the entire strength of the company." The proceeds were given to the Moffat Penny Dinner Fund.

At the monthly meeting of the branch, on 12 February, Mr. Marriott was responsible for the evening's entertainment, and Mr. Skeen presided. Messrs. Howard Rose, Baines, W. J. Douglas, and Marriott gave readings and recitations from *Sketches*, *Dombey and Son*, and *David Copperfield*, and Mrs. Max Guy rendered excellently several songs, and so contributed much to the pleasure of the evening. Towards its close Mrs. Stuart, Secretary of the "Little Dorrit" section, made a most satisfactory statement in reference to the work done by that branch during the past three years, and stated that, owing to indifferent health and domestic matters, she was compelled to give up the work. Her resignation was accepted with regret. The Committee would be glad to hear from any lady willing to undertake Mrs. Stuart's responsibilities, in reference to the "Little Dorrit" Society, at an early date.

EDINBURGH AND LEITH BRANCH

A MUSICAL and dramatic recital, under the auspices of the branch, was held on 7 February, in the Freemasons' Hall, George Street, to celebrate the ninety-fourth anniversary of the birthday of Dickens. The entertainment was of a most enjoyable character, and the hall was crowded to the door by an appreciative audience. Solos were rendered by Miss C. P. Gray and Mr. Charles Clark, and instrumental music of an excellent order by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Waddel. An interesting part of the programme was a dramatic sketch, "The Boffins' Call," adapted from *Our Mutual Friend*, and a comedietta, "The Man in the Street," by Louis N. Parker.

FOREST GATE BRANCH

ON 17 January Mr. Sidney Marriott presided over a large attendance. An interesting address was given by Mr. Robt. Allbut on "Rhenish and Swiss Dickens Land." The lecture was illustrated by about sixty limelight views of the journey up the Rhine and across "Switzerland to the Lake of Geneva." Views were also shown of the lecturer ascending Mont Blanc. During the intervals Madame Lena Mickelbacher sang.

FOREST HILL, PENGE, AND SYDENHAM BRANCH

THE first meeting of this branch was held last month. Mr. A. T. Richardson, who was elected Secretary, explained the object and aims of the Fellowship, and there is every reason to hope for a large and influential offspring. Mr. Walter Dexter also addressed the meeting. The chairman was Councillor W. G. Botheras, who was elected President for the season. Other officers were also elected. Communications should be addressed to Mr. Richardson, at 16 Kemble Road, Forest Hill, S.E.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS BRANCH

IT is proposed to have an examination based on the *Pickwick Papers* sometime towards the end of March, provided there are sufficient entries to make it interesting and worth undertaking. A small entrance fee of 3d. will be charged, which will be given to one of the charities connected with the Dickens Fellowship. The President offers prizes of 7s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d.

HULL BRANCH

ON 26 January Mr. E. E. Cohen gave a lecture on the "Aspirations of an Author, illustrated by the public utterances of Charles Dickens," showing his intense love for humanity, and the pathos and pity child life so often awoke in him.

On 9 February the President (Mr. Mortimer Petty, B.A.) presided. A tea and entertainment to poor children was given, and a success in every sense of the word was effected, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Campbell, Treasurer, who, with Mr. J. Bolton and others, worked hard to please the children. After the bairns had enjoyed a substantial repast, they were treated to ventriloquial items, conjuring tricks, and a Punch and Judy show, all by Professor Bolton, while a ladies' string band rendered popular airs at intervals, in which the youngsters heartily joined.

LEEDS BRANCH

To celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of Dickens, an interesting exhibition was held in the Reference Department of the Leeds Central Library of Dickens relics, and remained open for a fortnight. The exhibition was the first of its kind held in the city, and the City Librarian (Mr. T. W. Hand) is to be congratulated on the curios that had been got together. They comprised pictures of Dickens from the age of twenty-seven to the time of his death; and some of the most interesting of the exhibits were those lent by Mr. Frank Kidson, including the original weekly parts of *Master Humphrey's Clock*, the original number of *Bentley's Miscellany* for February, 1837, a dramatized version of that work produced in 1838, and an autograph letter by Cruikshank. There were also some interesting first editions of Dickens's works lent by Mr. Henry Walker, a French edition of *Sketches by Boz* and a pirated American edition of *Pickwick Papers*, a copy of the original announcement of *Pickwick Papers*, and a programme of amateur theatricals in which the names of Charles Dickens, John Tenniel, and Mark Lemon appear. There were also various biographies and criticisms of Dickens's works.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH

MR. J. W. T. LEY visited the Liverpool Branch at their second meeting in January and read a paper entitled "A Believer's Heresies" at the Common Hall, Hackin's Hey. There was a very good attendance, and the discussion which took place showed plainly that the members are alive to the interests of the branch, and of the Fellowship generally. Mr. Ley also addressed the meeting on the work of the Fellowship.

On 1 February Dr. Hill gave a lecture on "The Extra Illustrations to Dickens." It was most interesting, and illustrated by the display of one of the best collections in England of the extra illustrations. On 15 February a reception was held in the Free Libraries by Mr. P. Cowell, the chief librarian, who is a Vice-President of the branch, and Mr. Gordon Browne, the President. The reception took place in one of the private rooms where the choice collection of Dickens literature owned by the libraries was exhibited to the visitors. During the evening a lecture was delivered by Mr. Cowell.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

To celebrate Dickens's birthday the Manchester Branch on 7 February held a sale of work in the Accountants' Hall, Spring Gardens, in aid of the Crippled Children's Convalescent Home at Marple. Mrs. Albert Nicholson was president of the stall, with Mrs. John Harwood as treasurer, and Mr. Chadwick as secretary. The chair at the brief opening ceremony, which was performed by Sir William H. Bailey, was occupied by Mr. W. H. Vaughan, supported by Mr. John Harwood, the Rev. R. W. G. Hunter, and Mr. Albert Nicholson. After deducting expenses the sale of work realized £25.

NEW YORK BRANCH

A DISTINGUISHED company of artistes appeared for this branch on 15 December, at the Hoffman House, when the atmosphere would have satisfied the keenest lovers of the novelist. The preliminary discussion of Dickens and his work was in the hands of Frederick Faber Cooper, the illustrations given by Robert Lorraine, Alice Fischer, Harry Woodruff, and a dialogue by Mae Tully and Edward Hawtry. A reception followed the entertainment.

NOTTS BRANCH

THE above branch celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Dickens with a dinner at the Victoria Station Hotel on 7 February. The chair was occupied by the President, the Rev. H. T. Hayman, and was supported by Mr. S. T. Aveling, of Rochester, Mr. J. T. Spalding, J.P., Mr. R. Fitz Hugh, J.P., and Mr. J. Potter-Bristoe. The dinner was an excellent one, and the menu was studded with quotations from the works of the novelist. Many appropriate speeches were made; the toasts being, "The immortal memory of Charles Dickens," given by the chairman; "The Visitors," by Mr. Hinton Edwards, to which Mr. Aveling replied; and "The President," by Mr. Potter-Bristoe. There was also a varied programme of music and recitation.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

THE anniversary of Dickens's birth was celebrated by giving a tea to 600 poor children of the town in the Southsea Pier Pavilion. Afterwards they were all delighted with a varied entertainment of songs, dances, character impersonations, Christy Minstrels, ventriloquism, etc. Before leaving, they were presented with bags of cakes, oranges, and sweets, and during the evening the band of the borough police played selections of lively music. The Mayor and Mayoress and other members of the branch assisted to make the whole function the great success it proved.

ROCHESTER BRANCH

MR. FRANK SPEAIGHT again visited Rochester, and gave his recital of *Nicholas Nickleby* at the Castle Hall on 7 February. Each time his welcome is more cordial and his audience larger. Mr. Speaight was in splendid form, and his performance immensely enjoyed by the whole audience.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

THE ladies of the branch, with Miss L. H. Rhodes as organizing directress, gave tea and entertainment to about 220 of the Crofts children on 19 January. Through the kindness of Mr. Joseph Ridge, the Wostinholm Hall, Queen Street, was placed at their disposal. A very generous tea was provided and thoroughly enjoyed, and the children afterwards listened with equal enjoyment to a concert by the Mount View Pierrot Troupe, who had kindly volunteered their services. Miss Rhodes was ably seconded in her efforts by Mrs. Jackson and other ladies of the Fellowship.

On 7 February the members held a pleasant social gathering at the Cutlers' Hall, to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Dickens. The entertainment included selections from Dickens's own productions. Miss Mawson recited "My First Bull-dog" and "The Song of the Mittens"; Miss Roberts gave recitations; the Rev. V. W. Pearson proffered a reading from *Oliver Twist*; and there were recitations from Mr. Tlach and Mr. Lee. Miss May sang, and the Mount View Pierrot Troupe provided a funny half-hour in the old farce, "Ici on parle Française." During an interval refreshments were taken, and a vote of sympathy was passed with Mr. T. W. Padmore, the Hon. Secretary, who is only just recovering from a serious illness. It is interesting to learn that the membership of the Sheffield Branch, which had a small beginning, has now reached over 660.

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

ONE of the most successful readings of the session was given on 17 January, at a well-attended meeting, by Mr. John Pool, who was heartily applauded for his treatment of the interesting subject of "The Brothers Cheeryble" and "Nicholas in Search of a Situation." A special meeting was held on 7 February to celebrate the birthday of the great novelist, and a record attendance testified to the interest taken in the local branch and its doings. The meeting opened with an interesting résumé by the chairman (Mr. Fricker) of the life and times of Dickens. Readings from the master's works were given by Messrs. R. J. Howell, John Pool, and Chas. W. Head, and their selections considerably enhanced the pleasure of the evening.

SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

THE birthday celebration was observed on 6 February, when a recital of *A Christmas Carol* was given by Mr. A. W. Hayes, of Nottingham, at the Philharmonic Hall, to a large audience. The recital was splendidly rendered, delighting all present. Excellent musical items were contributed by the Western Council Band. Miss Elsie Hollis gave a pleasing song, and Mr. B. E. Mouncher an excellent violin solo. The proceeds are to be given to a fund for the poor children of Southampton.

TORONTO (CANADA) BRANCH

THERE was a large attendance at the January meeting held in St. George's Hall on the 19th. The President announced, in opening the meeting, that a cheque for the first year's maintenance of a "Dickens Cot" in the Home for Incurable Children had been sent to that institution, and that the cot was now an accomplished fact. The Honorary Secretary-Treasurer read a very interesting paper on "Three Women Characters of *David Copperfield*," Mrs. Hart contributed a reading from *Our Mutual Friend*, and Miss Malcolm from *Pickwick*. Dr. Malcolm W. Sparrow sang two numbers in his usual artistic manner. At the conclusion of the programme light refreshments were served, and members had an opportunity of getting better acquainted.

WEST LONDON SUBURBAN BRANCH

A SOCIAL evening was held on 2 February, when over eighty members and friends assembled in the Lecture Hall, Municipal Buildings, Ealing. An excellent programme of songs and recitations was provided. Madame Florence Armriding, Miss Higginson, Miss Wilkinson, and Miss Gudgeon contributed songs which were much enjoyed; Miss Eileen Hughes, Miss Edith Mead, and Miss Florence Watson some excellent recitations; whilst the songs of Mr. Arnold Horder and Mr. J. H. Watson were much appreciated. Tea was served in the interval, and an enjoyable evening was spent. The accompaniments were ably played by Mrs. Chevob.

WINNIPEG BRANCH

THE first meeting of the New Year was held in Manitoba College, when Sam Weller and Mark Tapley came under discussion. Dr. Woollard read from *Martin Chuzzlewit* that description of Martin's and Mark's voyage across the Atlantic, wherein we see Mark cheerful in the midst of trouble and depressing circumstances. Mr. Weir read a paper on "Sam Weller," and interspersed his paper with extracts from *Pickwick Papers*, amongst which were "Sam's Evidence" in the trial, "Sam's First Love Letter," and a few Wellerisms. Mr. Weir proved himself a veritable exponent of Sam Weller, and his paper was full of good things, his extracts provoking great humour. Mr. Stapleton gave a reading from *Martin Chuzzlewit*, describing Mark Tapley's meeting with Mrs. Lupin, and the little love episode.

YORK BRANCH

ON 17 January Mr. Lockwood Huntley gave a very able and intensely interesting paper in the Peckett Street Lecture Room on "The Pathos of Charles Dickens," in which he dealt very forcibly with the mighty power which Dickens wielded over the human heart and over the wide world with his sympathy and tender love.

On 31 January Mr. A. Lorraine read a paper on *Hard Times*. He considered that it is the one of all Dickens's works which should be distinguished from the others as especially wanting in that power of real characterization on which his reputation as a vivid delineator of human character and human life depends. The whole effect of the story is ungenial and unpleasant. A discussion ensued, in which the chairman (Mr. Grimes), the Rev. E. L. Perry, and Mr. G. Medd (the Secretary) took part.

On 7 February a tea and entertainment was given to two hundred poor children, over which the lady members presided. Both the tea and entertainment were thoroughly enjoyed, and the orange presented to each child at the close greatly appreciated.

DICKENSIANA MONTH BY MONTH

BOOKS

Lectures and Essays. By the late Canon Ainger (chapter entitled "Mr. Dickens's Amateur Theatricals"). 2 vols. London: Macmillan & Co.

Oliver Twist. With 16 photographs in character, as played at His Majesty's Theatre by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, etc. London: Collins' Clear Type Press. 1s. net.

NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

"Great Expectations." By Woodford Sowray. *Rochester and Chatham Observer*, 6 and 20 January.

"Elections in Novels." (Turnover.) *The Globe*, 23 January.

"In David Copperfield's Village: Blundeston and its Methodism." By Darby Stafford. *Methodist Recorder*, 25 January.

"N. P. Willis and Dickens" (Written in a library). *Bristol Evening Times*, 26 January.

"A Curious Dance Round a Curious Tree." By Percy Fitzgerald. *The Athenæum*, 27 January.

"The Most Famous Bird in Great Britain" (Dickens's Raven). Illustrated. *The Sunday Chronicle*, 27 January.

"A Romance in the Life of Charles Dickens: Remarkable Letters by the Great Novelist." *The Tribune*, 3 and 5 February.

"Charles Dickens." By G. K. Chesterton. *The Tribune*, 3 February.

"The Sir John Falstaff Hotel." *Weekly Budget*, 3 February.

"Charles Dickens on Past Persecution of the Jews." By Watson Smith. *The Tribune*, 3 February.

"The Parents of Charles Dickens." *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle*, 3 February.

"Charles Dickens." By Izaak Inkborn. *Notts Day Express*, 3 February.

"The Dickens Fellowship" (Leader). London. *The Daily Express*, 5 February.

"Dickens Collectors" (Interview with Mr. W. T. Spencer, the Dickens Bookseller). Illustrated. *Manchester Guardian*, 7 February.

"Dickens in the Open Air." *The Daily News*, 8 February.

"Popularity of Dickens." Leader in *The Standard*, 8 February.

"What the Dickens." *Morning Leader* and *The Star*, 8 February.

"Dickensiana." *Yorkshire Post*, 9 February.

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood." *Catholic Times*, 9 February.

"In the Track of Bill Sikes." By C. E. Harper. Illustrated. *London Magazine*, February.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"THE DEATH OF MR. PICKWICK"

To the Editor of "*The Dickensian*."

SIR,—The article to which Mr. Foy Swinfen-Barber refers in the January *Dickensian* is entitled "The Death of Samuel Pickwick," and is contained in a volume published by Chatto & Windus, one vol. 8vo, 1877, entitled *The Case of Mr. Lucraft and other Tales*, by Walter Besant and James Rice, and appears at pages 236-243. In the current edition of the book it appears on pages 251-9. The preface reads, "The following '*In memoriam*' notice should have appeared on the morning of May 2nd, 1862, in one of the daily papers. It was, however, found impossible for the editor to insert it, in consequence of the pressure on his space caused by the opening of the Exhibition. In consequence of this accident, the death of Mr. Pickwick was passed over with no notice from the Press." The record says death took place at his residence, at Dulwich, on the night of the 30th April; that he was corresponding member of many foreign learned societies; that he attracted considerable attention thirty-five years ago by the discovery of an inscribed stone. One Blotton was his chief assailant, but Pickwick's version of the inscribed stone has never been disputed. It gives the date of his birth as 1778, so that he reached the ripe age of 84, while his faithful servant, Sam Weller, announces that he is sixty. They both pass away about the same time, full of benevolence. On Samuel Pickwick's grave can be read, "His works live after him"; on Sam's the words "Faithful to the end."

Yours faithfully,

JOHN W. JARVIS.

15 GRANSDEN ROAD, SEVEN KINGS, ILFORD, ESSEX.

AN INQUIRY

DEAR SIR,—May I suggest that I think it would be to the benefit of all readers of your most interesting magazine, *The Dickensian*, if you could see your way to setting apart a small space for Answers to Correspondents?

There are many remarks of Dickens which need explanation, and I myself, although a continual reader of his books, still remain in ignorance as to the meaning of, e.g. (in *Sketches by Boz*) "When we say a 'shed' we do not mean the conservatory kind of a building which, according to the old song, Love frequented when a young man." What song?

Again, why did Mr. Pickwick's fellow-prisoner term him "Shakespeare"?

These remarks, and many others, must continually perplex us until some such step as I suggest is taken. Is there any Dickens Glossary which would be of use?

I am, yours truly,

WINIFRED M. NASH.

281 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD, FINSBURY PARK,

10 February, 1906.

[Reference is made to Miss Nash's letter under "When Found." No "Glossary" of Dickens, that we know of, exists.—ED.]

THE REAL P. J. T.

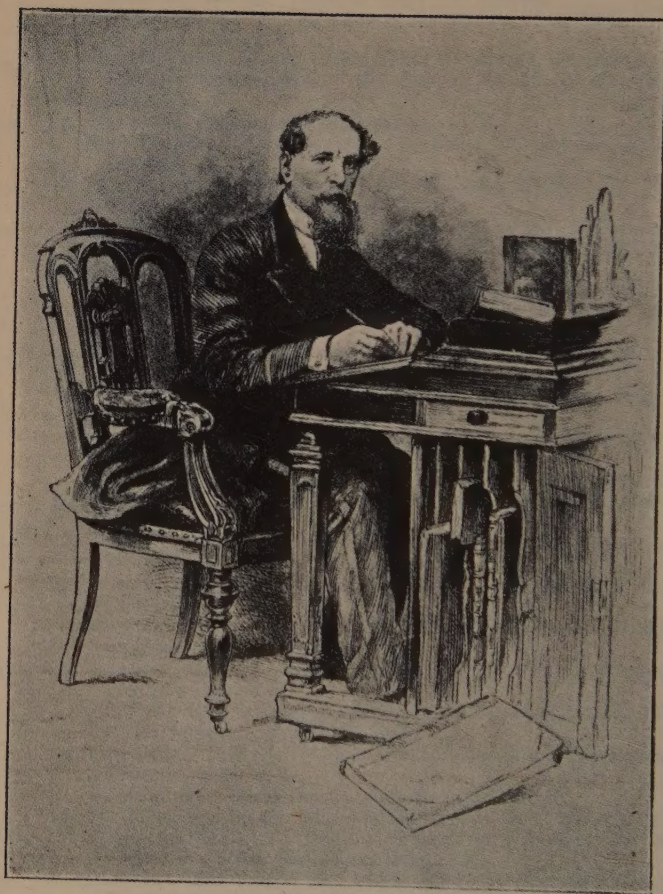
DEAR SIR,—In reference to Mr. Harper's remark on page 43, Mr. Grewgious could only speculate as to who P. J. T. was. He being a "solicitor only" would have no right to pay a visit to the library of Lincoln's Inn or any other Inn of Court, and I think that if all the solicitors of London were asked if they had ever been in one of these libraries the answer would be "No" in nearly every case. A solicitor in a barristers' library would be like a wasp in a bee-hive.

Yours, W. J. GADSDEN.

20 February, 1906.

DIARY OF DICKENS MEETINGS.

- March 1. Liverpool Branch: "A Tale of Two Cities," by Mr. R. T. Bodey, at Common Hall, Hackin's Hey, at 8.
- " 2. Manchester Branch: "More about the Cheeryble Brothers," by Rev. W. Hume Elliot, at Accountants' Hall, at 7.30.
West London Suburban Branch: Monthly Meeting at Municipal Buildings, Ealing. Paper by Mr. J. H. Watson.
Stockport Branch: "Dickens and Dress," by Miss Wild, at Stockport Sunday School, at 8.
- " 3. Complimentary Dinner to Mr. Frank Speaight, at Seyd's Hotel, 39 Finsbury Square, E.C. Mr. Arthur Waugh in the chair, at 7. Tickets 4s.
- " 5. Powerstock Branch: Social Evening.
Notts Branch: "Dickens's Art," by Mr. J. F. Marshall, at Mechanics' Institute.
- " 6. Chesterfield Branch: Recital of *Pickwick Papers*, by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Assembly Rooms.
- " 7. London: "Dickens as a Mystery Maker," by Mr. J. Cuming Walters, Mr. S. Luke Fildes, R.A., in the chair, at Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., at 7.30.
Forest Gate Branch: Paper by Mr. A. Mason, at Public Hall, at 8.15.
York Branch: Recital of *Pickwick Papers*, by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Exhibition Buildings.
- " 8. Edinburgh and Leith Branch: Lecture, "Jacobite Songs," by Mrs. Waddell, at 5 St. Andrew's Square, at 8.
Rochester Branch: Lantern Lectures, "The Garden City," by Mr. Thomas Adams, at Victoria Hall, at 8.
Sheffield Branch: Recital of *Nicholas Nickleby*, by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Montgomery Hall.
Winnipeg Branch: "Women Characters of Dickens," at Mrs. Collison's.
- " 9. Hull Branch: "The Old Curiosity Shop," by Mr. W. Taylor, at Albion Rooms, at 8.
- " 10. Leeds Branch: Lantern Lecture, "My Travels with a Camera," by Mr. W. Tebbs, at Church Institute, at 7.30.
- " 12. Brixton Branch: Evening arranged by Mr. J. S. Baines, at Independent Church, at 8.
Stockport Branch: Recital of *Pickwick Papers*, by Mr. F. Speaight, at Stockport Sunday School.
- " 15. Liverpool Branch: Paper by Mr. R. H. Case, at Common Hall, Hackin's Hey, at 8.
Stratford: Entertainment arranged by the Fellowship, at St. John's Hall, Chant Square, Stratford, E., at 8.
- " 16. Birmingham Branch: "Oliver Twist," Papers and Discussion, at Great Western Hotel, at 8.
Notts Branch: Whist Drive, at Mechanics' Institute.
- " 19. Southampton Branch: Monthly Meeting, at Kell Memorial Hall.
Blackheath Branch: "Charles Dickens as a Reader," by Mr. J. W. Lickis, at Obelisk Hall, Lewisham, at 8.
- " 21. Stratford: Last Recital in London before leaving for America, by Mr. Frank Speaight. *David Copperfield*, at Town Hall, 8.
- " 22. Edinburgh and Leith Branch: Lecture on "America," by Mr. Hew Morrison, at 5 St. Andrew's Square, at 8.
- " 23. Winnipeg Branch: "Minor Writings of Dickens," at 506 Langside St.
Hull Branch: "Charles Dickens," by Mr. S. Harris, at Albion Rooms, at 8.
- " 24. Leeds Branch: "Dickens and the Brontës," by Mr. S. A. Hirst, at Church Institute, at 7.30.
Brighton Branch: "Dickens as a Social Reformer," by Mr. W. Bartlett, at Steine Hall, at 7.30.
- " 26. Sheffield Branch: Monthly Meeting, at Cutlers' Hall, at 8.
- " 29. Liverpool Branch: Business Meeting, at 7.30. President's Address, at 8.30, at Common Hall, Hackin's Hey, at 8.



CHARLES DICKENS

From a photograph by Gurney, 1863